

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (New) A continuous method for producing polarizing films, that comprises:
monoaxially stretching a polyvinyl alcohol film having a width of at least 2 m in an aqueous boric acid solution, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film is stretched based on the following conditions:

$$A \geq 5 \text{ (m)} \quad (1)$$

$$A/B \geq 0.5 \text{ (min)} \quad (2)$$

wherein A indicates the stretching distance (m), and B indicates the stretched film speed (m/min).

Claim 19. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein said stretched film has a width (C) and the ratio (A/C) of the stretching distance (A) to the stretched film width (C) is at least 5.

Claim 20. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ratio (A/B) of the stretching distance (A) to the stretched film speed (B) is at least 1.0 (minute).

Claim 21. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the temperature of the aqueous boric acid solution ranges from 30 and 90° C.

Claim 22. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein said polyvinyl alcohol film is drawn at a draw ratio of at least 4 times.

Claim 23. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 22, wherein the draw ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol film is at least 5 times.

Claim 24. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polarizing films are produced by a series of steps of swelling a polyvinyl alcohol film, dyeing the film, monoaxially stretching the polyvinyl alcohol film in an aqueous boric acid solution, fixing the film, and drying the film.

Claim 25. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 95 mol %.

Claim 26. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 25, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 98 mol %.

Claim 27. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 99 mol %.

Claim 28. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 27, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 99.5 mol %.

Claim 29. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 1000.

Claim 30. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 29, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 1500.

Claim 31. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 30, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 2000.

Claim 32. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film has a thickness ranging from 10 to 100 μm .

Claim 33. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film contains a polyhydric alcohol serving as a plasticizer.

Claim 34. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film contains an anionic or nonionic surfactant.

Claim 35. (New) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film has a width of at least 2 m.